



Center for  
Student Involvement  
and Leadership



STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



# SCHEDULE

10:00 am -  
10:30 am

**Check-In**  
Family Room

10:30 am -  
11:30 am

**Keynote Speaker Vernon Wall**  
Family Room

11:30 am -  
12:45 pm

**Lunch and Student Leader Networking**  
Ballrooms

1:00 pm -  
1:50 pm

**Sessions: Block A**  
Various locations. (See following pages)

2:00 pm -  
2:50 pm

**Sessions: Block B**  
Various locations. (See following pages)

3:00 pm -  
3:50 pm

**Sessions: Block C**  
Various locations. (See following pages)

4:00 pm -  
5:30 pm

**Nerdology: Pop Culture Trivia Game Show**  
The Gardens



# VERNON A. WALL

## **AUTHOR | LECTURER | CONSULTANT**

### **“One Better World”**

**Privilege. Identity. Social Justice. The journey begins with you. Through interactive activities and focused discussions, participants will learn how their identities influence all they do and how to use this knowledge to become agents of change on campus and in our world. “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere!”**

Vernon A. Wall has accumulated over 30 years of professional Student Affairs experience at Iowa State University, the University of Georgia, UNC-Charlotte and UNC-Chapel Hill. He has experience in Greek life, new student orientation, student activities, leadership development, global education and university housing. Vernon currently lives in Washington DC where he serves as the Director of Business Development for LeaderShape, Inc. Vernon is also President and Founder of One Better World, LLC – a consulting firm specializing in engaging others in courageous social justice and equity conversations. In spring of 1998, Vernon sailed with Semester at Sea as a member of the Student Life Team accompanying 600 students on a voyage around the world. Vernon is also a past President of ACPA – College Student Educators, International.

With degrees from North Carolina State University and Indiana University, Vernon is the consummate scholar-practitioner. Vernon is a nationally known speaker in the areas of social justice and leadership styles and is one of the founders and facilitators of the Social Justice Training Institute. Vernon has written several articles and has co-edited two books on issues of inclusion on today’s college campus. His award-winning programs and presentations have been seen by thousands of students, faculty, and staff on campuses across the country. Vernon’s passion for social justice and inclusion is grounded in a quote from his late grandmother: “May the work I’ve done speak for me.”

# SESSIONS

## BLOCK A 1:00 pm - 1:50 pm

### LOVE COLLEGE? YOU CAN STAY WITH A CAREER IN STUDENT AFFAIRS!

Michelle DiPasquale and Erin Olsen / West Ballroom

Did you know that colleges and universities have a wide variety of staff positions where you can make an impact on students' lives? Types of positions include advising, programming, training, support services and more! Join us for a round table discussion about career opportunities in the field of Student Affairs.

*Michelle DiPasquale (she/her) earned her Bachelor's degree in Theater Arts from San Diego State University and her Master's degree in Student Affairs in Higher Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She has seven years of professional student affairs experience, in housing administration, residence life and violence prevention. As an undergraduate student, Michelle was a Resident Assistant, musical theater performer and studied abroad. She has lived and worked in San Diego, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Flagstaff and now Laramie! She loves going on hikes with her dogs, singing, cooking and traveling.*

*Erin Olsen has worked in student affairs for 19 years ranging from Admissions, University Counseling Center positions, and over ten years working within the Student Union. She holds a doctoral degree in Higher Education Administration; master's degree in Counselor Education; and bachelor's degree in International Business and spent time studying and living abroad.*

### THE NEW DIMENSION OF LEADERSHIP: IN 3D!

Tyler Wolfgang / Center Ballroom

In institutionalized structures of power such as those in leadership roles, gender binarism tends to erase the identity of those who live on the outside. This session will deconstruct the gender roles, stereotypes, and performances in binary leadership. Put on those 3D glasses and witness the new dimension of leadership!

*Tyler Wolfgang (hey/they), a queer identifying young adult. They are determined to advocate for LGBTQIA2S+ populations at UW through student promotion, inclusive intersectional program planning and resource guidance. A UW graduate, now the Multicultural Affairs Gender and Sexuality Program Coordinator. In their free time, they often are reading a book or at the movies.*



# SESSIONS: BLOCK A 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM

## REALITIES OF LEADERSHIP: A LIVED EXPERIENCE

**Gilbert Falcon and Alejandra Prado / Senate Chambers**

Leadership isn't always pretty, simple, fair, and can sometimes suck, but it doesn't always have to. This session will address the realities and lived experiences of leadership, join us as we utilize our understandings of our experiences to shape our new reality.

*Gilbert Falcon is the Student Organizations Coordinator at UW, has an undergraduate degree in Business Administration-Sports Marketing and Masters in Educational Leadership & Administration. With five (+) years of experience in student leadership & development, and collegiate & professional sports marketing. Fun fact, Gilbert is a fan of professional wrestling.*

*Alejandra Prado the 7220 Entertainment Advisor for CSIL, B.A in Social Work and Chicano Studies and M.A. in Higher Education, Administration, and Leadership from Fresno State. Seven years of involvement in leadership and civic engagement. Learn about the good, ugly, and benefits of being involved*

## COWBOY'S CORNER: TELLING ALUMNI STORIES THROUGH MULTIMEDIA

**Chance Price / Family Room**

Members of the Wyo-Gold Student Association began a project in 2021 of recording alumni stories through a podcast project called Cowboy's Corner. This session will preview their latest released episode and highlight how these students created, managed, and produced their project.

*Chance Price grew up in Wheatland, WY and graduated from the university with a bachelor's degree in History. Chance has been with the University of Wyoming Alumni Association for 5 years; handling Memberships, Networks, and Student programs. During his time as a student at UW, Chance was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity.*

*Born and raised in Powell, WY, Gareth Flowers spent two years studying at a community college in his hometown, then transferred to the University of Wyoming. He is currently seeking a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering at UW, and plans to graduate in May 2022. Gareth is currently the president of Wyo-Gold.*

*Zander grew up 60 miles South of Buffalo, NY, in a small town, and graduated from high school in 2016. He then enlisted in the United States Navy. After four years of service, and one tour to Iraq, he enrolled at the University of Wyoming to work on his bachelor's degree in International Studies.*

*Originally from Virginia, Andrea Colón moved to Wyoming in the summer of 2018 and has been with the Alumni Association since July of 2020. In 2015, Andrea earned her bachelor's degree from Radford University in Radford, VA and plans to graduate from the masters in higher education administration program at UW in May 2023.*

# SESSIONS: BLOCK A 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM

## RETHINKING DISABILITY: DEVELOPING A CRITICAL CONSCIENCE FOR INCLUSIVE SOCIAL JUSTICE LEADERSHIP

Kate McLaughlin / East Ballroom

This interactive session, will engage students in unpacking how they understand disability and its impact on their development as Inclusive Social Justice Leaders. Grounded in the work of Social Justice Educational Leadership and Disability Studies, participants will engage in activities to identify their own “personal frameworks” and become familiar with strategies to support the continued development of their “critical consciousness.”

*Kate McLaughlin is the Director of Disability Support Services and has spent her career advocating for the inclusion of people with disabilities in education. Grounded in Disability Studies and Discourse Analysis, her work focuses on how we construct ideas of disability through language and their impact on access and inclusion for people with disabilities. She is new to UW, coming from Maine and enjoys getting to know the outdoors of Wyoming and Colorado with her dog, Woods!*

# SESSIONS

## BLOCK B 2:00 pm - 2:50 pm

### FACULTY & STUDENTS DISCUSS PERSPECTIVES ON STUDENT ENGAGEMENT & USING INSIGHTS TO MAKE IMPROVEMENT

Laurie Smith and Kim Chestnut / Senate Chambers

An overview of the NSSE (students)/FSSE (faculty) surveys will be presented, including how data can be useful. VP for Student Affairs will moderate a student-faculty panel discussion. Highlighted student engagement themes for the panel include: differing perspective on faculty-student engagement, learning with diverse others, and barriers to those.

*Laurie Smith has worked at UW for 20 years, first in RLDS, and now as Assessment Coordinator in the Vice President for Student Affairs office. Laurie grew up in Maine, where she was a First Generation/Low Income Upward Bound student, and completed her B.A. in American Studies at Colby College.*

*Kim Chestnut was appointed UW's Dean of Students in 2018; as the interim VP for Student Affairs in 2019; and was named VP for Student Affairs in 2020. Kim holds doctoral and master's degrees from Widener University; master's degree from George Washington University; and bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado-Boulder.*

### WORK IT!:HOW TO SHARE YOUR COLLEGE EXPERIENCES LIKE A BOSS

Ryan O'Neil and Alli Brayton / Central Ballroom

Participants in this session will discuss how to the value of student life experiences - student employment, internships, leadership roles, academic projects, etc - that sometimes are undervalued by students entering the world of work post-graduation. This session will face on how to translate these experiences from a colleague career into work skills on a resume that will be attractive to employees.

*Ryan O'Neil has knows the value of having a variety of work experiences to draw from as someone builds a career. She has journeyed from lifeguarding to food service to recreation/event coordination to teaching. All of them have informed how she serves as the UW Dean of Students! She has a Masters Degree from Stanford University in Educational, Policy and Leadership Organization. Ryan struggles to keep plants alive but is doing okay so far with two daughters and two dogs (fingers-crossed).*

*Alli Brayton currently works for ACES as a career counselor and academic advisor. She has her B.S. in psychology and her M.S. in Counseling from the University of Wyoming. One of her main passions is helping students translate all this career related anxiety in to something meaningful for them. Other than that, you can typically find her in Half Acre listening to a spooky true crime podcast.*

# SESSIONS: BLOCK B

2:00 PM - 2:50 PM

## LEADERSHIP & LIFE: A YOUNG ALUMNI PANEL

Erin Wendover / East Ballroom

Engage with young alumni (5 years or less post-grad) who served in a student leader capacity during their time as a student! Panelists will share how their leadership experience as a student has translated to life after college and share advice related to transferable skills, personal development, and other topics.

*Erin Wendover is the Fraternity and Sorority Life Advisor at the University of Wyoming. She has earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Simpson College in Indianola, IA and a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI. She is a Denver, CO native and hiked more than 300 miles in 2021.*

## THE OPPOSITE OF LEADERSHIP: RECOGNIZING AND DEALING WITH TOXIC LEADERS

Richard Raridon / Family Room

Some leaders cast light while others cast shadows. This session will provide participants an opportunity to explore the latter. Drawing on examples from leadership theory, pop culture, social media, and examples from the group, students will learn to identify behaviors of toxic leaders as well as generate their own ideas for countering such negativity in a variety of environments.

*Richard Raridon (he/him) is currently the Program Director for the Service, Leadership, and Community Engagement Office (SLCE) here at UW. He holds bachelor's degrees in Psychology and Mass Communication from Black Hills State University as well as a master's degree in Experiential Education from Minnesota State University, Mankato. His career has spanned four universities where he has held a variety of Student Affairs roles and taught a number of different academic courses. When he's not busy being overly-pedantic in the SLCE office, you can find Richard wandering aimlessly through the woods.*

## DOES YOUR RACE INFLUENCE YOUR LEADERSHIP?

Jeremy Davis / West Ballroom

There are a lot of things that shape your leadership... but is race one of them??? The purpose of this session is to examine the messages we received about our leadership and racial identities. Through a series of guided activities, students will have the opportunity to discover more about themselves and their corresponding values. Student leadership development is an area of passion for Dr. Jeremy Davis.

*Jeremy Davis has worked alongside students for 15 years to help these leaders advance their organizations and learn more about themselves. His doctoral research focused on how White Student Leaders can unpack their racial privilege to become better leaders. When he's not working with students, you'll often find him in his garden, the mountains, or Coal Creek Tap.*

# SESSIONS

## BLOCK C 3:00 pm - 3:50 pm

### PERCEPTIONS OF POWER: LEARNING AND UNLEARNING LEADERSHIP

Shelby Kennedy and Nina Crosby / East Ballroom

Participants in this round table session will select from a list of topics and discuss their leadership strategies in a round table format. Prompts and questions will be provided for each topic.

*Shelby Kennedy was an AmeriCorps VISTA while completing a masters in Higher Education Counseling. As a student leader, Shelby worked in recreation and facilitated alternative break trips in the local community. When she's not at work, you can probably find Shelby baking sourdough or hiking.*

*Nina Crosby was a social activist/educator and rainbow-haired punk while pursuing a B.A. in English and History. Nina lives with borderline personality disorder and is passionate about advocating for trauma-informed, intersectional, and accessible spaces. While they miss the California sunshine, Nina adores tending to their garden and bingeing documentaries.*

### LEADERSHIP IS A COMMUNITY ENDEAVOR: RESTORATIVE PRACTICES AND COLLABORATIVE DECISION MAKING

Connor Novotny / West Ballroom

How do we make decisions that benefit the collective? How do we create communities of collaboration so that all voices are heard and shape the direction and mission that brings us together? In this session we will model our conversation on a restorative talking circle, and discuss components of strong leadership that we have been impacted by in our lives. Through the process, we will dig deep into the circle process, and construct a plan for how to enact collaborative leadership upon leaving the session.

*Connor Novotny is a UW alumni, with a B.A. in English, French, and Honors, as well as an M.A. in English Literature. Connor became involved in restorative justice in 2017, when he received training from the Natrona County Restorative Justice program to serve as an RJ community member and facilitator to serve young people and their families. Connor is ecstatic to be able to help build an RJ program on campus, and looks forward sharing the practice with others.*



# SESSIONS: BLOCK C

3:00 PM - 3:50 PM

## YOUR HISTORY, YOUR IMPACT: THE LEGACY OF UW STUDENTS ORGANIZING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Melanie Vigil / Family Room

It is often said that the past informs the present, and that lasting change happens incrementally. Session participants will learn about the history of identity-based student organizations at UW and the contributions they have made to creating change institutionally, locally, and statewide. Some questions that will be explored with participants include: What does it look like to create social change at a rural, predominantly white institution? How will the students who come after you remember your impact at UW?

*Melanie Vigil (she/her) is the Program Director of Multicultural Affairs at UW. She has a BA in Gender & Women's Studies and International Studies from UW, as well as a Master's in Public Administration. She is Chair of the Board of Directors at Wyoming Equality, has worked for the ACLU of Wyoming, and taught Gender and Women's Studies and First Year Seminar courses at UW. In the summer you can find her gardening with the two weeks of good weather we have in Laramie.*

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# SESSIONS: BLOCK C

3:00 PM - 3:50 PM

## DON'T LEAVE EMOTION OUT: DEVELOPING EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE (EQ) IN LEADERS

Erik Kahl / Senate Chambers

Can you have leaders without followers? What influences followers to want to follow? This session will explore Emotional Intelligence as a skill for leading and ways to further develop one's own EQ.

*Erik has been working at UW for nearly 5 years and the greater higher education world for more than 10 years supporting student organizations, fraternity/sorority life, leadership development programs, student government, and more. Pulling from personal experience as both an undergrad and a professional, Erik knows the influence positive leaders can have and one thing tends to unite them.*

## DISCOVER YOUR PERSONAL BRAND

Sabrina Kaufman / Central Ballroom

Learn how to build your personal brand and discover how defining that brand will help you take the lead in your own life.

*Sabrina Kaufman graduated from UW with baccalaureate degrees in Computer Science and Graphic Design in 2017. Afterward, she worked as a graphic designer for Plenty Farms before moving back to UW to provide design for Residence Life and Dining Services and CSIL.*